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**Title:**  
Speech at Matthew Flinders' Anchor ceremony

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR DUNSTAN, AT MATTHEW FLINDERS'  
ANCHOR CEREMONY. ART GALLERY. 1.3.74

Mr Jones, Mr Baily, Ladies and Gentlemen:

First of all, and most obviously, Mr Jones thank you on behalf of the people of South Australia for giving us this valuable relic of our history.

We were particularly pleased that it was possible to get it here in time to be the centrepiece of the Flinders' exhibition in the Arts Festival.

And we were delighted too that you recognised the South Australian team's initiative in tracing and recovering the anchors by giving us the best one.

Australians in the past have generally been shamefully neglectful of their history - irreplaceable records and artefacts have been allowed to be destroyed, rot or simply be lost.

Now, and in the nick of time, we realise what a tragedy that was and are seeking to reverse the process.

Fortunately although much has been lost, much remains.

It's a fundamental responsibility on any civilised community to preserve its heritage for the education and enjoyment of its citizens and their successors.

But this responsibility extends beyond mere preservation. The job is only part done if artefacts such as this and historical records are just preserved and left to moulder away in obscure vaults or archives.

To be understood and appreciated historical material must be accessible.

Here I think the Art Gallery does a magnificent job for South Australia. Its historical section is first class - in both content and display. Regrettably it's not as well patronised as some of the other galleries.

I hope that, if they haven't seen it already, the people who visit the Flinders exhibition come back later and have a look at the permanent display. It's an education and a pleasure. It's free, too. Now the Investigator's bow anchor will be a treasured part of that collection. You can already see, Mr Jones, how much we value it in the superb job the Public Buildings Department has done in producing a replica of the stock.

Again my thanks to the team whose research and enterprise recovered the anchor for us and to your Government for presenting it to us.

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